



United States Department of Agriculture



2007 West-Virginia Farm-Bill Forum

Friday, October 7, 2005

Elkins Middle School

Elkins, West Virginia

Questions & Statements for Discussion

1. The competitiveness of U.S. agriculture in global and domestic market. "How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to compete effectively in global markets?"

2. The challenges facing new farmers and ranchers as they enter agriculture. "How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?"

3. The appropriateness and effectiveness of the distribution of farm program benefits. "How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?"

4. The achievement of conservation and environmental goals. "How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?"

5. The enhancement of rural economic growth. "How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?"

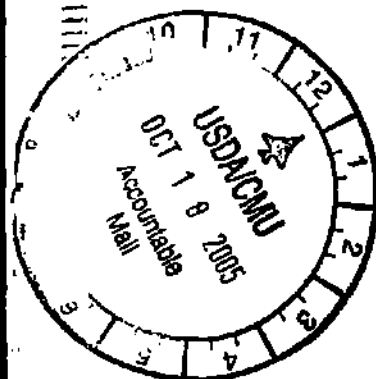
Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a USDA program

6. Opportunities to expand agricultural products, markets, and research. "How should these agricultural product, marketing, and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?"

administered by NRCS. This is a program lead by local people. Through the local Boards of Directors, the RC&D areas will serve as the best vehicle to deliver programs to rural America. The RC&D Program must be fully funded not reduced as was proposed in the current budget. The program is different from all other Federal programs. The unique nature makes it an easy target for budget reductions. However the unique nature

also provides opportunity to deliver benefits to rural areas. Again the Resource Conservation and Development Program should be, no must be, fully funded. The returns to rural areas are several times the cost of the program.

Thanks.



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United States Department of Agriculture

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